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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 6 October 2010, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Tommo Monthe ..... (Cameroon)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 105: Crime prevention and criminal justice (A/65/89, 91, 92, 113, 114 and 116; A/C.3/65/L.2, L.4, L.5, and L.6; E/2010/30 (Supp.10))

Agenda item 106: International drug control (A/65/89 and 93; A/C.3/65/L.3)

1. **The Chairperson** said that draft resolutions A/C.3/65/L.2 and L.3 before the Committee contained identical provisions with regard to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and that, following discussions held within the Bureau, it had been proposed that they should be combined into a single document to be issued as a text submitted by the Chairperson. The text would be reviewed by the Budget Division to enable the Committee to take a decision on it by 14 October. He said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt that proposal.

2. *It was so decided.*

3. **Mr. Fedotov** (Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)) said that development needed security to succeed, requiring solid institutions grounded in the rule of law, in other words, a social contract between a State and its citizens ensuring everyone access to justice and respect for basic human rights. A commitment to human rights and the rule of law were at the core of the mandate of UNODC, which advocated a preventive approach to protecting individuals against organized crime, trafficking, terrorism and other forms of violence and supported the building of effective criminal justice systems.

4. Research, the implementation of the Conventions and operations in the field were the three indivisible pillars of the work of UNODC in assisting Member States in formulating and implementing their policies. The Office's five interdependent thematic areas — combating organized crime and trafficking in illicit drugs, weapons and human beings; building up criminal justice systems and preventing crime; tackling corruption; preventing drug use and the spread of HIV/AIDS; and prevention of terrorism — promoted security and the development of States.

5. Organized crime, including corruption, thrived on instability, especially in fragile States and countries engaged in or emerging from conflict. The assessment of transnational organized crime released by UNODC in June 2010 showed the global nature of that phenomenon. To cope with that challenge, States would have to redouble collective efforts to ensure the implementation of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols as well as the Convention against Corruption.

6. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime would convene shortly in Vienna, and concrete measures should be taken to ensure the effective implementation of that instrument. With regard to combating human trafficking, impressive results had been achieved, such as the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons by the General Assembly in July 2010. One of the Plan's most important elements was the establishment of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, to be launched in November 2010. In addition, the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking and the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement would host a forum to mobilize support at the highest levels for the implementation of the relevant Protocol. All those initiatives focused particular attention on the victims of trafficking, who should not be treated as criminals, even if they had been forced to engage in criminal acts.

7. Furthermore illicit drug use and drug dependence should be considered health issues, not crimes, since the real criminals were the drug traffickers. Access to care was a fundamental right, and UNODC had launched a joint programme with the World Health Organization to provide accessible treatment in low- and middle-income countries. The Office took a similar approach to fighting HIV/AIDS, which required a comprehensive approach that integrated prevention and treatment.

8. Demonstrating the link between drug use and lack of security in the world, he cited the typical case of Afghanistan, where transnational criminal groups, taking advantage of instability, trafficked in drugs. As underscored by the 2010 Afghanistan Opium Survey, the link between opium poppy cultivation and insecurity remained strong not only in that country, but also in the wider region. It was, therefore, in the interest of the international community to help Afghanistan spread the rule of law throughout the country. The consumer side of narcotic drugs should

not be forgotten, since supply was intimately linked to demand.

9. In the area of preventing terrorism, the Office had assisted 168 countries in improving their legal regimes, organized regional and subregional workshops to strengthen international cooperation and provided the services of more than 10,000 criminal justice officials. Nevertheless, the demand from Member States for that type of assistance continued to grow at a pace that outstripped the available resources of UNODC, to which the General Assembly allocated less than 1 per cent of the United Nations regular budget, while the Office's mandate was among the eight priorities identified in the Secretary-General's strategic framework for the period 2010-2011. To remain viable in the long run, UNODC needed a stable funding model, a concern expressed by the General Assembly when it had adopted the Secretariat's overall budget for 2010-2011 and by the Fifth Committee, which underscored the need to find the means to ensure that the Office had a sound funding base drawing on supplementary resources from the regular budget and voluntary contributions. Aware that attracting more resources would require continued excellence on the part of UNODC, he would build on reforms implemented in recent years, notably by aligning the Office's programmes with geographical priorities, cutting costs and broadening the donor base.

10. **Mr. Tanin** (Afghanistan) said that he supported the request for additional funds by the Executive Director of UNODC, which should ensure the smooth functioning of the Office, and that the fight against drugs required concerted efforts. The Afghan Government, which was resolutely committed to combating that scourge, had eradicated poppy cultivation in 20 of the country's provinces, but still had much to do in that area.

11. **Mr. Rastam** (Malaysia) expressed satisfaction at the recent adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and said that, in order to be truly effective, the Plan should complement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol. He asked how UNODC planned to ensure the best use of its instruments. Malaysia, which supported the idea of tackling the problem of drug consumption from the viewpoint of health, made use, inter alia, of substitution therapy through methadone and a needle-exchange programme. With regard to drug trafficking, South-East Asia was affected above all by the growing problem of amphetamine-type stimulants. He would like to know what measures would be taken by the Office in cooperation with the countries of the region in order to cope with that problem.

12. **Ms. Sulimani** (Sierra Leone), referring to the UNODC assistance project aimed at enhancing the capacity of African States to provide access to legal assistance in the field of criminal justice, wished to know the criteria used in selecting beneficiaries under the project, which she considered particularly interesting.

13. **Ms. Sinjela** (Zambia) requested information on the Office's follow-up to the conclusions and recommendations of the 2008 Global Forum to Fight Human Trafficking.

14. **Mr. Fedotov** (Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)) assured Member States that he would do everything to respond to their expectations and continue the work of his predecessor. In reply to the statement by the representative of Afghanistan, he said that the study on opium in Afghanistan published by the Office one week earlier, underscored the linkage between insecurity and poppy cultivation. There was no more poppy cultivation in 20 Afghan provinces, the bulk of production being concentrated in the south, which was very unstable. Nevertheless, while the decrease in poppy production was good news, it was basically due to a crop infestation and was therefore not entirely the result of the measures taken in that regard.

15. Combating the particularly odious crime of human trafficking was a priority for the Office, which planned to expand the scope of its programmes and international cooperation in that field. The upcoming launching of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons would make it possible not only to obtain further resources but also to make the matter a priority for all countries.

16. In addition to Afghanistan, UNODC gives priority, in implementing its programmes, to areas such as Central America, Latin America, South-East Asia as well as West Africa, where it was a question of not only of controlling drugs but also of improving criminal justice systems, since some countries in the region were emerging from conflicts and needed assistance to establish the rule of law.

17. **Mr. Burniat** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, Iceland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that transnational organized crime was a threat to democracy and peace worldwide, undermined the enjoyment of human rights, hindered economic activity and obstructed the development of stable and safe societies. That transnational problem required a global solution based on increased international judicial cooperation. The Stockholm Programme, which was adopted in 2009, aimed to create an area of freedom, security and justice within the European Union in civil protection, police and customs cooperation, judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, asylum, migration, and visa and border control. The Programme was not merely internally oriented as the Union was committed to intensifying cooperation with partner countries.

18. The European Union, which considered the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Additional Protocols to be the primary tools for international cooperation, called for the universal ratification of those instruments. It called on all Member States to support the establishment of an effective review mechanism that would make it possible to obtain reliable information on the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

19. One of the most hideous forms of transnational organized crime was human trafficking. The Union remained determined to fight it and hoped that the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons would encourage States to ratify and implement the relevant instruments and all parties concerned to raise their awareness of that serious crime and to combat it.

20. Corruption posed a threat to the integrity of Governments and societies and was detrimental to good governance and sustainable development. The European Union welcomed the holding of the third session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which had created a review mechanism, whose three elements were the participation of civil society, country visits and the availability of country review reports.

21. The European Union also considered it important to combat another scourge that of international terrorism, by respecting human rights, international humanitarian law and refugee law, and supported the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in promoting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

22. The drug problem, which impacted the political and socio-economic stability of societies, required a multidisciplinary approach striking a balance between reducing drug demand and supply on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility. There was a need for close international cooperation coordinated by UNODC. Combating the drug problem also required the setting up of institutional capacities and improvement of skills in all areas of drug policy, including the health sector, law enforcement and the judicial sector. The continued spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases among injecting drug users called for the implementation of effective measures. In that regard, the Union welcomed the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (A/HRC/14/20) and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals. That progress was the fruit of cooperation between States, which should always be conducted in full respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights.

23. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (A/65/116) and the recommendations put forward in it. CARICOM supported strengthening the technical cooperation capacity of UNODC, the assessment of transnational organized crime threats, and providing the Office with the funding necessary to enable it to continue to give technical assistance for the implementation of the conventions and protocols on crime prevention, criminal justice and international drug control. He expressed concern about the limited regular budget resources and the continued reduction of general purpose funding for UNODC, while the number of programmes to be implemented simultaneously expanded.

24. The Caribbean States continued to face the twin menace of the illicit trade in narcotic drugs and that in small arms and light weapons. As transit countries,

they underwent the consequences of those activities and the attendant crime and violence, which created instability and constituted a threat to national and regional development. The dangers posed by piracy, cybercrime, the sexual exploitation of children and trafficking in cultural property were of equal concern to the CARICOM States. In view of the transnational dimension of the problem, active collaboration with their regional and international partners was crucial in efforts to develop and implement effective border control methods.

25. The current state of the world economy further increased the threats posed by organized crime, which thrived in an environment where poverty was prevalent. The region was confronting a "black plague". Young people continued to fall prey to drug abuse or engage in drug trafficking. Accordingly, CARICOM intended to submit a draft resolution on youth, guns, drugs and crime.

26. The Caribbean Community had adopted a number of measures to address critical security issues in the region. In 2007, it had set up the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security and established strategic partnerships with third States and regional and international agencies. In 2008, the CARICOM heads of Government had agreed on a strategy and plan of action to stem the rising tide of criminality. To combat that scourge, the Community had adopted an approach based not only on law enforcement but also on social intervention and transformation.

27. At the domestic level, partnerships among all key stakeholders had been increased. In addition, strategic partnerships had been forged with international institutions. The Social Development and Crime Prevention Action Plan, prepared in collaboration with the World Bank, would be implemented over the period 2009-2013, targeting high-risk groups. That positive achievement, however, had been overshadowed by the decision to close a UNODC regional office in Barbados, a decision which should be reassessed. The Community, nevertheless, sought to engage with various capacity-building programmes from other United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

28. The States of the region, which were aware of the need to mount together effective counteroffensives against the narcotics trade, the corruption of public institutions and organized crime, did not, however, have the financial and institutional capacity to do so. The transnational nature of organized crime required cross-border collaboration at the bilateral, regional and international levels. Lastly, he stressed that the grave problems of drug and gun trafficking, money-laundering and trafficking in persons had serious consequences for the peace and safety of the region.

29. **Mr. Mnisi** (Swaziland), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that the Community attached great importance to the fight against transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, terrorism and corruption, which continued to undermine development efforts and the welfare of society. SADC had established a number of institutions to fight against those problems. He stressed in that regard the role of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization, which cooperated with the subregional bureau of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

30. The recession had led to an increase in unemployment, underemployment and economic instability, thereby aggravating the problem of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls. Aware that that problem required a concerted international response, SADC had participated in the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons in July 2010. Its regional efforts included the adoption of a plan of action on combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

31. To fight corruption, which was detrimental to economic and political growth, governance and development in the region, the SADC member countries had signed a protocol against corruption, which provided for judicial cooperation and legal assistance between the States parties.

32. Piracy also posed an economic and security threat. A team of technical experts, therefore, would soon be sent to determine the extent of the problem and make recommendations.

33. Aware of the fact that criminal justice systems in many developing countries lacked the financial and human resources needed to deal with transnational organized crime, the SADC countries, noting that they needed technical assistance in preventing crime, recognized the central role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in upgrading capacity in

that regard and appreciated the valuable cooperation provided by its partners.

34. The drug problem continued to pose a threat to public health, safety and general well-being. In spite of some positive developments in that field, SADC noted with concern the signs of increased drug use in developing countries, which undermined efforts to achieve sustainable development, security and democracy. Furthermore, the nexus between illicit drugs and criminal activities was a matter of grave concern. Effective responses to transnational organized crime should be based on the establishment of an adequate legislative framework, capacity-building programmes and regional and subregional cooperation. In that regard, he pointed out that most SADC member States had ratified the main instruments on drug control.

35. The Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization, a SADC body, continued to work with INTERPOL and formulated policies designed to coordinate drug control activities. SADC, which remained committed to reducing drug abuse and trafficking had developed a strategic framework for enhanced information-sharing among its member States. Other activities promoting prevention initiatives and awareness campaigns had been launched.

36. SADC supported greater development assistance and the strengthening of the rule of law in countries where drugs were cultivated and produced, information-sharing and intelligence-based operations targeting major transnational networks as well as the proposal that Member States should commit resources to help developing countries design effective information systems on illicit drugs for policy and programme development.

37. **Mr. Mokin** (Russian Federation), speaking on behalf of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), said that collective measures were needed in order to meet the challenges and threats posed by transnational organized crime and that the United Nations should strengthen its coordination role. The Commonwealth, which supported the mission of the United Nations, intended to implement its resolutions and hoped to participate in the anti-crime programme adopted by the Organization. He expressed satisfaction with the results of the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Salvador Declaration as well as the various instruments and decisions adopted at the international level concerning transnational crime. He had taken note of the recommendations formulated by the Secretary-General under the United Nations programme to combat different forms of organized crime, particularly the fight against cybercrime, corruption, terrorism, human trafficking and piracy.

38. He drew attention to the Dushanbe Programme resulting from the latest CIS conference of heads of State and Government and the draft agreement on missing persons, the creation of a financial information service, an intergovernmental anti-crime programme, cooperation programmes to combat extremism and terrorism, and programmes for border surveillance and combating human trafficking. Programmes had also been set up at the regional level, including the "Canal" anti-drug trafficking operation. Within the framework of the fight against organized crime, the CIS members had established in January 2010 a databank enabling them to exchange information.

39. The Commonwealth regularly organized conferences on cooperation between the police authorities, such as the conference held in 2010 on prosecuting terrorist crimes. It intended to continue to cooperate with the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the centre for combating money-laundering linked to the financing of terrorism.

40. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan), speaking on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), said that the problem of illicit drug trafficking was a global challenge directly related to organized crime, terrorism and corruption in drug-producing countries and in countries of destination.

41. Heroin production in Afghanistan remained the main threat to the region. Opium cultivation had reached unprecedented levels and threatened the security and stability not only of that country but also the rest of the world. The "northern route", passing through Central Asia and the Russian Federation, remained one of the major routes of illegal drug trafficking from Afghanistan to Europe. Every year, up to 120 tons of heroin were transported by that route, and half of it remained in the countries of the region where heroin use was steadily increasing. Opiate and heroin consumption in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) resulted in up to 50,000 deaths annually.

42. In order to combat drug trafficking in the region, international cooperation had been established between CSTO and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

(NATO) and within the framework of the Paris-Moscow process. In 2003, the CSTO member States had laid the basis for the "Canal" international counter-narcotics operation, which had permanent status and had achieved important results and gained growing prestige. In addition, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) had opened in December 2009 in Kazakhstan and would become the central coordinating mechanism to fight transborder drug trafficking and cooperate closely with UNODC. The CSTO countries' anti-drug authorities interacted at the practical level within a coordination council.

43. CSTO welcomed the growing input of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in the fight against the Afghan drug infrastructure and called for increased cooperation between ISAF and the Government of Afghanistan, noting that, in order to combat that scourge, Afghanistan needed increased and better coordinated international assistance and the complete commitment of its authorities.

44. CSTO attached great importance to its cooperation with the United Nations, based on the principle set forth in General Assembly resolution 64/256, adopted in March 2010, and the joint declaration on cooperation between the Secretariats of the United Nations and of CSTO of 18 March 2010.

45. **Mr. Johnson** (United States of America) stressed that, faced with transnational criminal networks that had become more complex and diversified, States must build international and regional law enforcement networks. His country continued to work with partner Governments in that field. In 2007, it had launched with Mexico the Merida Initiative to confront the criminal organizations that plagued the region. To prevent the displacement of those threats to other countries of the region, it cooperated also with Central American and Caribbean countries.

46. Some countries had considerably developed their criminal justice capacities. Colombia, in particular, had restored public safety and revitalized its economy. The international community must help other countries likewise, particularly in Africa, through which Andean cocaine flowed to Europe.

47. The United States continued to assist the Afghan Government to combat drug production and trafficking. The UNODC Paris Pact Initiative had proven invaluable in coordinating joint international action to stem the flow of Afghan heroin. The Office must continue to play that crucial coordinating role, but, in order to do so, it needed generous financial support from international donors.

48. The past several years had been a watershed for the United Nations role in developing treaties that served as a foundation for global cooperation to target both crime and drugs. It was now necessary to ensure that those treaties were implemented. It was urgent to establish an effective mechanism to review implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which was approaching its tenth anniversary and whose Conference of State parties would soon begin. It was also necessary to promote the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

49. In addition to acting on their treaty commitments and increasing multilateral cooperation, States could also, like the United States, take immediate measures to deny entry to their territory on the part of public officials who received bribes as well as those who supplied them and, in terms of the anti-drug effort, support the new questionnaire system at the reconvened session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

50. **Mr. Sparber** (Liechtenstein) said that his country was a traditional sponsor of the resolution on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, which promoted capacity-building in domestic criminal justice systems. Access to a strong and independent justice system was a human rights imperative.

51. Liechtenstein had consistently supported the work of UNODC in strengthening national capacities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in order to assist countries in their efforts to combat corruption, money-laundering and organized crime. Capacity-building was particularly relevant for States in post-conflict or transitional stages to enable them to prosecute the most serious crimes under international law — genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The International Criminal Court Review Conference held earlier in the year in Kampala reaffirmed the primary responsibility of States for the investigation and prosecution of such crimes, whereby the Court played a complementary role.

52. In August 2010, Liechtenstein had become a party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. It had also joined the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and participated actively

in other relevant political initiatives. His country believed that, 10 years after its adoption, the Palermo Convention was the central tool to address effectively transnational organized crime and that the Conference of States Parties should establish an effective mechanism to monitor its implementation. Liechtenstein welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which should strengthen the Palermo regime.

53. As an internationally recognized financial centre, Liechtenstein fully complied with international standards against money-laundering and for tax cooperation. It supported the Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative (StAR) and was among the main donors supporting the International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR). His country had also ratified and implemented the 16 United Nations anti-terrorism conventions and protocols, combated terrorist financing and continued to support the comprehensive implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

54. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) said that, with the approach of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention must overcome all the obstacles to its full implementation, especially since organized crime continued to increase. At its fourth session, the Conference had established a working group to study methods of ensuring implementation. At its fifth session, it would be able to consider the results of the group's work.

55. With regard to drug trafficking, he stressed the need to maintain the momentum of international cooperation generated by the fifty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in March 2010, and called for a balanced approach that linked demand and production.

56. At its sixty-fourth session, the General Assembly had adopted a Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Egypt, which had called for such a plan, was confident that the General Assembly and UNODC would make every effort to achieve tangible results. Egypt also welcomed the establishment of a new international trust fund for victims of human trafficking and encouraged the private sector, civil society and regional and international institutions along with Member States to contribute to it. Egypt stressed the importance of coordination between the United Nations and the regional organizations in efforts to implement the Plan of Action, as well as cooperation between the various actors within the United Nations system.

57. In 2006, Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, the First Lady of Egypt, had launched a major initiative to combat human trafficking; and in 2007, Egypt had established a national coordinating committee against trafficking. In 2010, Egypt had adopted a comprehensive law and was preparing to set up a special fund for victims of trafficking and to host an international forum in December on that issue.

58. **Ms. Zhang** Dan (China) welcomed the decline in the production of heroin and cocaine and the start of the first round of review of implementation of the Convention against Corruption, but noted the continued growth of trafficking in new drugs, the loss of precursor chemicals and the increasingly close link between drugs and terrorism or transnational organized crime. Cybercrime, too, posed an increasing threat.

59. The international community needed to strengthen cooperation as the only way to combat transnational organized crime, including through the provision of international judicial assistance. That must be with full respect for the United Nations Charter and the principles of sovereignty, equality and reciprocity. The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime could facilitate that cooperation if efforts were made to leverage the role of the Conference of States Parties, which could analyse the difficulties encountered by countries, especially developing countries, in implementing the Convention so as to make capacity-building and technical assistance more pertinent. In that regard, China appreciated the activities of UNODC, which should continue to be strengthened by all countries.

60. The Chinese Government attached great importance to the implementation of the two conventions in question, both at the national level and through the over 100 treaties on legal assistance it had signed with more than 60 countries, especially in the field of criminal justice. China had also signed 25 international multilateral conventions with provisions on judicial cooperation, which it actively implemented. At the end of 2009 it had acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, after having participated in meetings of the working group on human trafficking and having

supported adoption by the General Assembly of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

61. China welcomed the change in the format of the annual thematic debate by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and commended the work of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and of UNODC, and encouraged them to strengthen dialogue with the donor and recipient countries with a view to providing technical assistance that accorded with the needs of the recipient countries and regions.

62. His Government paid particular attention to drug-prevention education for youth, and had carried out several nationwide campaigns as part of the People's War against Drugs. International, especially bilateral, cooperation was also essential. Together with UNODC and INCB, China had hosted the centennial commemoration of the convening of the International Opium Commission. The resulting Shanghai Declaration affirmed the consensus and political will for drug-control cooperation. China was active in various regional and international mechanisms with a view to contributing to a drug-free world.

63. **Mr. Hassan Ali** (Sudan) welcomed the adoption, on 31 July 2010, of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and stressed his country's action to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, pursued through national and regional institutions, to which it provided training and technical support. He also welcomed the forthcoming meeting at Luxor, under the patronage of Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak and of her Women's International Peace Movement, of an international forum devoted to combating trafficking in persons.

64. Trafficking in drugs and all other forms of transborder trafficking called for global action at all stages, including action against those, often from industrialized countries, who funded such crimes, exploited globalization and profited from ongoing conflicts in poor countries. The Sudan was determined to implement the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, and supported the efforts of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and of African countries to that end. Like other countries, the Sudan was concerned that the natural resources of the African continent were being coveted from outside and its development was thereby being delayed.

65. The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders played a significant role; yet its resources were too limited, despite appeals for greater financial support, repeated each year in General Assembly resolutions.

66. The Sudan, which played a pioneering role in international cooperation to combat terrorism, had participated in numerous international meetings on that topic, such as the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

67. Given its vast porous frontiers, which it shared with nine other States, the Sudan was particularly exposed to arms trafficking, which had fed civil wars, especially in Darfur. With the normalization of its relations with Chad and efforts for national reconciliation, the situation had improved markedly in the east and west of the country.

68. In the context of regional cooperation, the Sudan was actively combating trafficking in persons. It had taken part in many training initiatives with neighbouring countries in the field of criminal justice and its links with human rights. There was a need to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against those who resorted to trafficking in drugs, diamonds and other forms of transnational crime.

69. **Ms. Acosta Hernández** (Cuba) recalled that the key to crime prevention, a major task for the international community, lay above all in combating underdevelopment and establishing a more equitable international economic order. Countries lacking resources because of the current, iniquitous economic order encountered the greatest difficulties in combating criminality, especially as no country acting alone could triumph over terrorism, trafficking in drugs or persons, money-laundering or arms trafficking. International cooperation was therefore essential, but should be based on respect for each State's sovereignty, laws and territorial integrity.

70. In the face of drug trafficking, the most destructive of all forms of transnational organized crime, Cuba was totally disposed to collaborate at the regional and international level in serious and concerted efforts, but pointed out that the problem could not be solved by acting exclusively — or even primarily — in centres of production and transit; the fundamental responsibility lay with the major centres of consumption.

71. Cuba was opposed to drawing up, outside the United Nations system, fallacious lists of countries ostensibly responsible for violations linked to transnational organized crime, such as those produced by the Department of State of the United States of America for purposes of political pressure and to justify unilateral sanctions without any legal or moral basis, especially the embargo against Cuba.

72. The Cuban Government was engaged in systematically preventing crime through broad programmes of economic, social and cultural development and the systematic improvement of its legislation. The latter severely penalized the various forms of organized crime. But the cornerstone of crime prevention lay in improving the education of children and youth and increasing public awareness generally.

73. At the international level, Cuba attached great importance to the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which promoted the exchange of information and methods among States and professionals, and was active in international cooperation in that field, both at the multilateral level and in the context of bilateral agreements it had concluded with dozens of partners.

74. **Mr. Mokin** (Russian Federation), supplementing the statement made on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, emphasized that it was essential to support United Nations activities to combat the various forms of international crime. The Russian Federation had ratified the United Nations Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime and against Corruption, and invited all Member States to do likewise. Its national plan for implementation of the Convention against Corruption was under the guidance of a presidential council. It intended to participate constructively in the fifth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to be held shortly in Vienna, which would enable a mechanism to be set up to monitor the implementation of that instrument, similarly to that relating to the Convention against Corruption.

75. Technical assistance to States parties should be developed. Under the agreement between UNODC and the Russian Ministry of Justice, workshops would soon be held in Moscow to train experts from members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to participate in the mechanism for monitoring the Convention against Corruption.

76. Regarding the fight against trafficking in persons, Russia commended Belarus for having recently organized a ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, aimed at giving substance to the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking.

77. There was a need to lay the legal bases for international conventions against cybercrime and on mutual legal aid. To assist States parties in implementing existing and future conventions, UNODC must have its role strengthened and must be provided with adequate funds.

78. Russia was pursuing its struggle against terrorism in association with the private sector. There was a need for many public-private partnerships to combat other forms of organized crime.

79. With regard to drugs, the situation remained alarming, especially in Afghanistan. The UNODC report made no mention of any improvement, in terms of either the cultivated area or the number of drug-free provinces; the fall in production was attributable to a poppy disease and not to genuine progress. The international community should raise its financial contribution to the programme aimed at encouraging farmers to turn to substitute crops, and should also help in bolstering the Afghan police forces. It was essential to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, especially resolution 1817 (2008).

80. The General Assembly and the Security Council needed to analyse the situation to gain a better grasp of the reason why international efforts were not bearing fruit. The very principle of shared responsibilities was being questioned, whereas it was vital. The necessary strategies were known, including the Rainbow Strategy aimed at the entire drug-production chain. Russia called on all interested States to play an active role in implementing the decisions taken at recent international conferences on Afghanistan. For its part, it contributed to the "Canal" operation undertaken by the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

81. Russia invited all Member States to join in implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and called attention to the growing problem of synthetic drugs.

82. **Ms. Kursh** (Israel) said that no State alone was able to confront the immense threat posed by organized crime and drug trafficking, hence the need for greater integration of action to combat those negative forces. Israel intended to conclude partnerships with other Member States and with United Nations entities. Together with UNODC, in October 2009, Israel had hosted a workshop entitled "Enhancing Cooperation as Part of an Effective Demand Reduction Strategy Based on the Israel Anti-Drug Authority's Model", in which representatives of 14 countries had participated.

83. As a signatory to all three international drug-control conventions and as a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Israel welcomed the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. Israel paid particular attention to the elements of the plan that addressed synthetic drugs, which were developed at such a fast rate that regulations and law enforcement often lagged behind. Accordingly, Israel had amended its dangerous-drugs ordinance to include substances analogous to the four main classes of synthetic substances and had established a pharmaceutical crime unit to monitor sales of psychoactive substances in order to identify any potential misuse. The unit was a member of the Permanent Forum on International Pharmaceutical Crime, whose 2010 annual conference Israel had had the honour to host.

84. Israel employed a balanced strategy vis-à-vis supply and demand: while combating the supply of illicit drugs, it recognized that demand reduction was essential and that drug addiction was a health disorder that required treatment. To provide universal care to its citizens, Israel offered a wide array of options tailored to the gender, age and cultural and religious background of patients and ensured that treatment was followed by intensive social rehabilitation work.

85. Tackling the drug problem was also part of the effort to combat HIV/AIDS, one of the Millennium Development Goals. In that connection, Israel used harm-reduction initiatives such as substitution therapies which had been offered since 1975 to drug users who were unable to undergo complete detoxification and helped them to lead normal lives. Complemented by needle-exchange programmes and care at local clinics, those initiatives had helped to drastically reduce the number of HIV infections linked to drug use.

86. As drug trafficking had little regard for national borders, efforts aimed at combating that plague must be international in scope and must include all States, regardless of political considerations.

87. **Mr. de Séllos** (Brazil) said that transnational organized crime affected the international community as a whole without discrimination, but that its negative consequences were felt most acutely in the poorest and most vulnerable countries. There should be greater cooperation, including among countries of the South, in tackling that phenomenon and the effort should not be limited to repression, but should include measures for prevention, human rights promotion and protection and social development. The goal must be to create alternative livelihoods to help reduce the appeal of criminal activities and to ensure that the population was shielded from them.

88. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was the cornerstone of the effort to combat all forms of transnational crime; on the tenth anniversary of the Convention, the goal must be to ensure that all countries accede to it. A review mechanism would be an important means of strengthening implementation of the Convention and its protocols.

89. In April 2010, Brazil had hosted the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Salvador de Bahia, which had brought together more than 2,000 participants from Member States, intergovernmental organizations and civil society. The Salvador Declaration adopted at the Congress renewed the commitment of the international community to crime prevention and reinforcement of judicial systems; it emphasized that all countries were concerned by the impact of organized crime on human rights, the rule of law, security and sustainable development; and it underlined the importance of an integrated, participatory and collaborative approach to combating that scourge.

90. Despite the progress made in addressing the global drug problem, efforts should be redoubled at the national, regional and international levels. Brazil had updated its programmes according to the latest scientific studies and changes in the social, political and economic environment. Embodying the balanced approach outlined in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action adopted in Vienna in 2009, the national drug policy of Brazil included components dealing with

public health and human rights, in accordance with the Constitution. The relevant legislation also established a legal distinction between drug traffickers and drug addicts and severely punished the financing of drug trafficking.

91. Brazil had concluded many bilateral cooperation agreements, not only with its neighbours, but also with Angola, India and Mozambique. In September 2010, Rio de Janeiro had hosted a workshop on the geopolitics of drugs. The establishment of the South American Council to Combat Drug Trafficking should help to strengthen the actions of partners based on modalities that took into account the particularities of the region. Brazil cautioned against strictly security-based strategies which did not take into consideration the socio-economic implications of the problem and, reaffirming the principle of shared responsibility, stressed that the problem could not be resolved without the active engagement of the largest consumers of illicit drugs.

92. Renewing its support for UNODC, whose support for Member States was an essential tool in the efforts to combat transnational crime and the scourge of drugs, Brazil noted with concern the financial situation of the Office and urged Member States to increase their support, especially through unearmarked contributions.

93. **Mr. Ulibarri** (Costa Rica) said that the global drug problem posed an ever-increasing threat to international security, owing in particular to the growing links between drug trafficking, organized crime, terrorism, weapons trafficking and trafficking in persons. Those scourges hampered public investment choices, seriously harmed public health, the rule of law, public safety and individual and social well-being, and jeopardized respect for human rights.

94. Although Costa Rica remained, in its regional context, a safe country with robust institutions, it was not free from the ravages of drug trafficking and the other sinister activities of organized crime, which could undermine some of the gains made in the area of human development. Situated between the major drug producers of the South and the major consumers of the North, Central America felt the far-reaching impact of traffickers in many aspects of its social life. The phenomenon had many damaging effects, including breakdown of the personal resolve of drug users, enslavement of vulnerable young people who fell under the control of criminal gangs; corruption of State officials, and human rights violations committed by Governments tempted by simplistic and strictly repressive solutions.

95. Given the scale of resources wasted by so many countries on the purchase of weapons, it was hardly surprising that the international community was powerless in tackling that ever-growing problem. Each Member State must invest in prevention, monitoring, repression and rehabilitation activities and strive to implement international treaties on drug control. Indeed, they must go further.

96. First, developed countries, especially the biggest consumers, must increase their assistance to producing or transit countries in the areas of policing, economic and social development and strengthening of the rule of law.

97. Second, a critical self-appraisal was imperative given the failure of strictly repressive policies. Other factors must clearly be considered, including economic incentives at each stage of the trafficking process, methods and triggers of drug use, functioning of institutions, prevention, and treatment and rehabilitation of drug users. Given the complexity of the topic, a more detailed and multidisciplinary study of drug demand should be presented in upcoming United Nations reports.

98. The battle could only be won through global cooperation and coordination, as developing countries could not sacrifice their resources in order to take on a problem which they had not created, based on strategies which they had not designed. One useful mechanism was the Agreement concerning Cooperation in Suppressing Illicit Maritime and Air Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in the Caribbean Area, of which Costa Rica was a depositary. That agreement, which resulted from, among other things, the efforts of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the countries of the Caribbean Community, could serve as a model for other countries and regions.

99. Costa Rica felt that multilateral organizations must adopt strategies that were better balanced in terms of resources and responsibilities and were more results-oriented; it therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's proposals in that regard.

100. Lastly, he stressed that respect for human rights must be at the core of all prevention, repression, treatment and rehabilitation efforts.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.